

**CASA CONEJO MUNICIPAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES**  
**September 21, 2011**

**The Casa Conejo MAC Held an Official Meeting Wednesday, September 21, 2011, 6:00 p.m.  
at Walnut Elementary School, 501 Dena Drive, Newbury Park**

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by **Dustin Woomer** at 6:00 P.M. MAC members **Clara Ann Deemer, Jennifer Clark, Janell Smith, Megan Sandoval** and **Edward J. Villa, Jr.** were present.

**2. Flag salute**

**3. Adoption of the Agenda**

No revisions were made to the agenda.

**4. Approval of the Minutes**

**Megan Sandoval** moved to approve the minutes for July 20, 2011 without revisions. **Jennifer Clark** made the second. Motion passed 6/0.

**5. Comments of Ventura County Supervisor Linda Parks**

**Supervisor Parks** told the MAC that two 25mph speed signs were approved for both ends of Ruth Drive and should be installed shortly. She said she attended the opening of the Human Services Agency at the Under One Roof Building, located at 80 East Hillcrest Drive, where many non-profit organizations operate with free rent while the County pays market rent, providing good synergy for everyone involved. She added that next year the health clinic in Thousand Oaks will open, aiding those who have lost their health insurance. Supervisor Parks mentioned that the ribbon cutting ceremony for the beautiful new McCrea Ranch Visitor Center took place this week and that Conejo Recreation and Park District did a terrific job with funding assistance from the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy. She explained that Ventura County Transportation Commission (VCTC) is expected to merge with Ventura Council of Governments which could result in bus routes being designed in conjunction with land use. She said the transit study being conducted by VCTC will have a Conejo Valley community meeting on October 22nd to get input because more money will be allocated for public transit.

**6. Public Safety Reports (CHP, Sheriff's Department, etc.)**

**Captain Frank O'Hanlon** told the MAC that the crime rate was down in the Casa Conejo area all through the month of August. He said they apprehended the graffiti culprits and sent them to jail. He remarked that a skateboard was stolen on Gerald and noted that thefts of valuables from vehicles are still a problem. Regarding the concern that patrol cars have been cut back since the reverse contract with the Thousand Oaks Police Department went into effect, Officer O'Hanlon acknowledged that there are fewer police officers because of budget constraints. Supervisor Parks pointed out that response times for Casa Conejo are similar to the City as a whole. Captan O'Hanlon introduced **Senior Deputy Laura Natoli** who supplied her cellphone number for Casa Conejo residents to contact her personally at (805)947-8097 if they need non-emergency assistance. To receive regular updates from the Sheriff's Department on local crime, residents can log onto [ecsheriff.watch@ventura.org](mailto:ecsheriff.watch@ventura.org) to register their e-mail address.

**Clara Deemer** and **Janell Smith** said that having an active Neighborhood Watch program is important for Casa Conejo residents even though the low crime rate helps residents feel less afraid.

**Jenny Clark** told Captain O'Hanlon that the motorcycle officer posted at Lesser Drive since school started has been very helpful and that in her experience, police respond to calls in less than 5 minutes.

**7. Public Comments**

**Richard Gaz** inquired when Henry Drive would be resurfaced, noting that he understood in July 2010 that it would be within a few months. Supervisor Parks said her staff will check the pavement schedule and get back to him with the timeframe. Mr. Gaz also said he thinks the sidewalks are terrible. **Nathan Borin** said that sidewalks that need repair are a liability. **Supervisor Parks** explained that the County has not been replacing sidewalks since Proposition 13 went into effect. She said she has suggested to the Board that the County provide funding but has

not had enough votes to pass the funding. She said she will continue to pursue this item, particularly with respect to handicapped sidewalk access because it is a core government service. In the interim, she said the County will work with residents to utilize crews in the same area to save costs. Supervisor Parks also said she was able to get County Public Works to repair a sidewalk adjacent to Walnut Elementary School.

## **7. Council Comments**

**Clara Deemer** asked if a credit counseling expert could make a presentation at a future MAC meeting.

## **8. Information items**

### **a. Comparison City/County Rates for Sewer, Water and Trash**

**Janet Wall** provided handouts detailing the comparison of service fees for trash, sewer and water in the Casa Conejo area versus the Newbury Park area in the City of Thousand Oaks, noting that the differences are minimal, or in the case of water, the cost is the same.

### **b. Lit Stop Sign at Lesser and Jenny**

**Janet Wall** told the MAC that Public Works reviewed the request to install a lit stop sign at the intersection of Lesser Drive and Jenny Drive, and their investigation showed one reported collision at the intersection in the last 10 years and seven months. They determined that the existing multi-way stop control is operating adequately and additional improvements are not recommended at this time.

### **c. Casa Conejo CERT News**

**Arie Izhak** provided an update of the CERT team, explaining that he had hoped for a better response from the 30 individuals who completed the training. Mr. Izhak said he is planning a CERT team meeting and requested that CERT team members send him updated contact information if their phone numbers and/or e-mail addresses have changed. He stressed that his website is secure. Mr. Izhak said that team members need to initiate and complete a definitive plan for how to help community members in emergencies. In addition, he said he is a licensed ham radio operator. The MAC requested that Supervisor Parks' office coordinate with Mr. Izhak and add "Emergency Use of Ham Radios" to the agenda when Mr. Izhak is available to make a presentation.

### **d. Casa Conejo Graffiti Removal Intervention Team (GRIT) Update**

**Ed Villa** said he painted over graffiti in several channels during the past few weeks. **Janet Wall** added that Mr. Villa now has the key to locks on six WPD channel gates in Casa Conejo. She told the MAC that a graffiti removal training session is scheduled for 8 a.m. on Saturday, October 15 and that community members who want to remove graffiti in the Casa Conejo area should complete the forms available at the meeting so they can complete the safety training offered by WPD and join Ed Villa during future removal efforts. Several individuals expressed interest in the October 15 training.

### **e. Flood Control Report Update**

**Supervisor Parks** told the MAC that the County is working with FEMA on a 20% reduction in flood insurance rates and that a more complete update can be provided at the November MAC meeting.

### **f. Casa Conejo MAC Open Seats**

**Supervisor Linda Parks** explained that Bobbi Ross Neier resigned from the MAC and that Janell Smith and Megan Sandoval both expressed a desire to be reappointed to the MAC. She said that David Ayers has graciously submitted an application and that she and the subcommittee members support his nomination.

**David Ayers** introduced himself and said he and his wife have lived in Casa Conejo since 1975 and that he has been a teacher at Weathersfield Elementary School since 1972. He said he supports Neighborhood Watch and would be honored to help represent the community on the MAC. Supervisor Parks told the MAC that the three applications will go to the Board of Supervisors in the next few weeks.

## **9. Action items**

### **a. Casa Conejo Beautification Clean-Up Event**

**Jenny Clark** said that Clara Deemer, Janell Smith and she met with Supervisor Parks and Janet Wall several weeks ago to discuss a special volunteer effort in the community that will coincide with the County sponsored Community Beautification Event which provides recycling and disposal bins for residents. **Janet Wall** made available an outline of the meeting which details committees and coordinators. Ms. Clark said she will be

contacting the high school and scout groups to ask for volunteer assistance and that the exact date will be determined later this year; most likely the event will be in April 2012. Ms. Clark explained that a few goals of the Beautification Clean-Up event are to assist seniors and disabled residents with yard clean-up, and to ask residents if they want a free tree planted in the easement area of their property. **Janell Smith** mentioned that she had drafted a flyer to publicize the event and solicit volunteers and people who need assistance with their yard work. **Clara Deemer** responded that the clean-up event will help bring the community together and added that perhaps a \$100 certificate could be presented to the house most improved. **Dustin Woomer** said that it would be great if locations for planting 2 or 3 new trees in a row could be identified and supported by the homeowners. Dustin Woomer moved to support the Beautification Clean-Up Event and Clara Deemer made the second. Motion was approved 5/0 (Megan Sandoval absent).

#### **10. Suggestions for future agenda items**

Wendy Bridge Update (Jay Spurgin)

Sidewalk Issues

Flood Control/FEMA results

CERT Update/Emergency Ham Radio Use

Graffiti Removal Intervention Team Update

Community Beautification Clean-Up Event

#### **12. Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m. until November 16, 2011 at Walnut Elementary School**